

Job Description



Summary

Job title	Research Assistant
Division	Social Sciences Division
Department	Department of Social Policy and Intervention
Location	Barnett House, 32 Wellington Square, Oxford, OX1 2ER
Grade and salary	Grade 6: £32,332 - £38,205 p.a. (pro rata if part time)
Hours	Part time (50%)
Contract type	Fixed Term to 31 st March 2025
Reporting to	Senior Postdoctoral Research Officer
Vacancy reference	174615

Research topic	Development Accelerator Interventions for Adolescent Health and Wellbeing
Principal Investigator / supervisor	Prof. Lucie Cluver
Project team	Economic Evaluation Research Team
Project web site	Accelerate Hub – The UKRI GCRF Accelerating Achievement for Africa’s Adolescents Hub (acceleratehub.org)
Funding partner	The funds supporting this research project are provided by OAK Foundation and other partners

The role

The [Accelerate Hub](https://acceleratehub.org) at the Department of Social Policy & Intervention, University of Oxford, is seeking a Research Assistant to contribute to the analysis and economic modelling of adolescent development accelerator interventions in Africa. The selected candidate will work closely with the Economic Evaluation Research Team (EERT) to conduct comprehensive reviews of literature and perform descriptive and inferential statistical analyses. This position offers an excellent opportunity for individuals with a background in development economics and/or global health who have a keen interest in adolescent research.

At the EERT, we conduct economic decision modelling of combinations of ‘accelerator’ interventions, including economic strengthening (e.g., cash transfers), sexual and reproductive health services, and parenting support. Our research is carried out in close collaboration with international agencies such as UNICEF, WHO, and PEPFAR. The goal is to support policymakers in selecting the most cost-effective interventions for improving the wellbeing of adolescents in developing countries.



The selected candidate will work at the Accelerate Hub, Department of Social Policy & Intervention, University of Oxford. This position can be either part-time or full-time, depending on the candidate's availability and preferences. It is a fixed-term position until 31st March 2025, with the possibility of extension based on funding availability.

Responsibilities

- **Literature review:** Conduct thorough literature reviews on existing impact and economic evaluations of adolescent development accelerator interventions. This includes writing review protocols, identifying key studies, extracting quantitative data (such as effect estimates, p-values), and summarizing findings.
- **Support cost-effectiveness analyses:** Assist in designing and implementing rigorous cost-effectiveness analyses of development interventions, with a special emphasis on multi-outcome interventions.
- **Support economic modelling:** Assist in applying economic decision modelling methods to assess the impact and economic return of combinations of accelerator interventions to improve multiple outcomes.
- **Data collection and analysis:** Collect data from secondary sources, including information about program costs and outcomes. Utilize statistical and econometric techniques to derive meaningful insights from quantitative data.
- **Research support:** Provide comprehensive research support to the project team, including data cleaning, literature synthesis, drafting research reports, and assisting with presentations or academic papers.
- **Documentation and reporting:** Document research processes, methods, and findings in a clear and organized manner. Prepare high-quality reports, summaries, and presentations for internal and external dissemination.

Selection criteria

Essential selection criteria

- **Education:** Hold a first degree and/or Master's degree in Economics, Global Development Studies, Public Policy, or a related field. Candidates in the final stages of completing their degree will also be considered.
- **Knowledge:** Strong working knowledge of impact and economic evaluation methods, including cost-effectiveness analysis, and intermediate microeconomics.
- **Research skills:** Demonstrated experience in conducting quantitative research, including data collection, cleaning, and analysis. Proficiency in statistical software packages (e.g., R, Stata) is preferred.
- **Analytical mindset:** Excellent analytical and critical thinking skills, with the ability to interpret complex data and derive meaningful insights. Attention to detail and accuracy in data analysis is essential.
- **Communication:** Strong written and verbal communication skills in English, with the ability to convey research findings effectively to diverse audiences.
- **Team player:** Proven ability to work effectively in a collaborative research environment, contributing to a positive and inclusive team culture.
- **Organisational skills:** Excellent organisational skills, with the ability to prioritize tasks, manage time efficiently, and meet deadlines.
- **Initiative:** Self-motivated and proactive, with a willingness to take ownership of tasks and show initiative in problem-solving.
- **Passion for development research:** A genuine interest in the field of development economics and a commitment to improving the social wellbeing of vulnerable social groups in Sub-Saharan Africa.

Desirable selection criteria

- Familiarity with evaluation frameworks, cost-benefit analysis, and cost-utility analysis is desirable.
- Experience in writing research reports, academic papers, or policy briefs is advantageous.
- Working toward a doctorate in a relevant specialist discipline.
- Experience of working in a research team and contributing ideas for new research projects.

Pre-employment screening

Standard checks

If you are offered the post, the offer will be subject to standard pre-employment checks. You will be asked to provide proof of your right-to-work in the UK; proof of your identity; and (if we haven't done so already) we will contact the referees you have nominated. You will also be asked to complete a health declaration so that you can tell us about any health conditions or disabilities for which you may need us to make appropriate adjustments.

Please read the candidate notes on the University's pre-employment screening procedures at:

<https://www.jobs.ox.ac.uk/pre-employment-checks>

About the University of Oxford

Welcome to the University of Oxford. We aim to lead the world in research and education for the benefit of society both in the UK and globally. Oxford's researchers engage with academic, commercial, and cultural partners across the world to stimulate high-quality research and enable innovation through a broad range of social, policy and economic impacts.

We believe our strengths lie both in empowering individuals and teams to address fundamental questions of global significance, while providing all our staff with a welcoming and inclusive workplace that enables everyone to develop and do their best work. Recognising that diversity is our strength, vital for innovation and creativity, we aspire to build a truly diverse community which values and respects every individual's unique contribution.

While we have long traditions of scholarship, we are also forward-looking, creative, and cutting-edge. Oxford is one of Europe's most entrepreneurial universities and we rank first in the UK for university spinouts, and in recent years we have spun out 15-20 new companies every year. We are also recognised as leaders in support for social enterprise.

Join us and you will find a unique, democratic, and international community, a great range of staff benefits and access to a vibrant array of cultural activities in the beautiful city of Oxford.

For more information, please visit www.ox.ac.uk/about/organisation.

Department of Social Policy and Intervention

The Department of Social Policy and Intervention is a multidisciplinary, social science centre of excellence for research and teaching in comparative social policy and evidence-based social intervention and policy evaluation. In the UK-wide 2021 Research Excellence Framework (REF), it was a top-five scoring department in the country, across all subjects and universities, with 62 per cent of the Department's research activity classified as 'world leading' (4*) with a further 30 per cent classed as 'internationally excellent' (3*). In the most recent QS World University Rankings by Subject (2022) the Department ranked second in Social Policy and Administration globally.

The Department has undergone substantial transformation in recent years. This renewal includes the expansion of graduate teaching and supervision in policy evaluation and comparative social policy; significant expansion in research income; and the creation of new research groups and areas of research expertise.

The Department's teaching is largely devoted to graduate students. It offers master's degrees in Comparative Social Policy (CSP) and in Evidence-Based Social Intervention and Policy Evaluation (EBSIPE). Students may study for either

a one-year MSc or a two-year MPhil. The Department also offers supervision for doctoral degrees in Social Policy or in Social Intervention and Policy Evaluation. The graduate intake is highly international with students drawn from the United Kingdom, EU member states, and many countries across the world.

Research within the Department is largely organised under the auspices of two main research groups:

- The Centre for Evidence-Based Intervention (CEBI)
- The Oxford Institute of Social Policy (OISP)

More information about the department can be found at www.spi.ox.ac.uk.

Social Sciences Division

The University's academic departments and faculties are organised into four large groups, known as Academic Divisions (Social Sciences, Mathematical, Physical and Life Sciences (MPLS), Medical Sciences, and Humanities). The divisions are responsible for academic strategy and operational planning, oversight of the teaching and research of their constituent departments and faculties, and for personnel and resource management. The social sciences at Oxford are distinctive for both their depth and breadth, with over 1,000 academic and research staff working across fifteen departments, faculties, and schools. The Head of the Social Sciences Division is Professor Timothy Powers, who is a member of the University's Council.

The Division is a world-leading centre of research and education in the social sciences. The Times Higher Education (THE) University Rankings placed the University of Oxford as number one in the world for Social Sciences in 2018 and 2019. REF 2014 confirmed Oxford as the UK powerhouse for research in the social sciences, accounting for more 4* research than any other institution. Our academic and research staff and students are international thought leaders, generating new evidence, insights, and policy tools with which to address some of the major global challenges facing humanity, such as sustainable resource management, poverty and forced migration, effective governance, and justice. As well as active interdisciplinary links with researchers in other divisions at Oxford, we engage and collaborate extensively with other universities and a wide range of governmental and non-governmental practitioner communities such as law, business, public health and welfare, international development, and education around the world. The Division has an extensive portfolio of external funders, partners, and supporters, with competitively awarded external research income exceeding £50 million per year and philanthropic income over £25 million a year. As part of our commitment to equality of opportunity, eight of our departments have achieved bronze Athena SWAN awards: the Blavatnik School of Government, Economics, Education, International Development, Law, Geography & the Environment, Anthropology & Museum Ethnography, and the Saïd Business School, with all our other departments either in the process of applying or scheduled to do so shortly.

The Division delivers an exceptional range of high-quality educational programmes all underpinned by the innovative research being undertaken by our academics. The student body is made up of over 2,000 undergraduate students, nearly 3,000 students studying postgraduate taught programmes and 1,200 postgraduate research students. The programmes we offer are wide-ranging, often interdisciplinary and include professionally oriented provision in areas such as business, law, and education. The Division is home to several of Oxford's most widely recognised teaching programmes, such as Philosophy, Politics and Economics (PPE) at undergraduate level; and at the master's level programmes such as the Bachelor in Civil Law (BCL), Environmental Change and Management, International Relations, and Social Data Science.

For more information, please visit: www.socsci.ox.ac.uk.

How to apply

Applications are made through our e-recruitment system and you will find all the information you need about how to apply on our Jobs website <https://www.jobs.ox.ac.uk/how-to-apply>.

Your application will be judged solely based on how you demonstrate that you meet the selection criteria stated in the job description.

As part of your application, you will be asked to provide details of two referees and indicate whether we can contact them now.

You will be asked to upload a CV and a supporting statement. The supporting statement must explain how you meet each of the selection criteria for the post using examples of your skills and experience. This may include experience gained in employment, education, or during career breaks (such as time out to care for dependants)

Please upload all documents as **PDF files** with your name and the document type in the filename.

All applications must be received by **midday** UK time on the closing date stated in the online advertisement.

Information for priority candidates

A priority candidate is a University employee who is seeking redeployment because they have been advised that they are at risk of redundancy, or on grounds of ill-health/disability. Priority candidates are issued with a redeployment letter by their employing department(s).

If you are a priority candidate, please ensure that you attach your redeployment letter to your application (or email it to the contact address on the advert if the application form used for the vacancy does not allow attachments).

If you need help

Help and support is available from: <https://hrsystems.admin.ox.ac.uk/recruitment-support>

If you require any further assistance please email recruitment.support@admin.ox.ac.uk. To return to the online application at any stage, please go to: www.recruit.ox.ac.uk.

Please note that you will receive an automated email from our e-recruitment system to confirm receipt of your application. **Please check your spam/junk mail** if you do not receive this email.

Important information for candidates

Data Privacy

Please note that any personal data submitted to the University as part of the job application process will be processed in accordance with the GDPR and related UK data protection legislation. For further information, please see the University's Privacy Notice for Job Applicants at: <https://compliance.admin.ox.ac.uk/job-applicant-privacy-policy>. The University's Policy on Data Protection is available at: <https://compliance.admin.ox.ac.uk/data-protection-policy>.

The University's policy on retirement

The University operates an Employer Justified Retirement Age (EJRA) for all academic posts and some academic-related posts. The University has adopted an EJRA of 30 September before the 69th birthday for all academic and academic-related staff in posts at **grade 8 and above**. The justification for this is explained at: <https://hr.admin.ox.ac.uk/the-ejra>

For **existing** employees, any employment beyond the retirement age is subject to approval through the procedures: <https://hr.admin.ox.ac.uk/the-ejra>

There is no normal or fixed age at which staff in posts at **grades 1–7** have to retire. Staff at these grades may elect to retire in accordance with the rules of the applicable pension scheme, as may be amended from time to time.

Equality of opportunity

Entry into employment with the University and progression within employment will be determined only by personal merit and the application of criteria which are related to the duties of each particular post and the relevant salary structure. In all cases, ability to perform the job will be the primary consideration. No applicant or member of staff shall be discriminated against because of age, disability, gender reassignment, marriage or civil partnership, pregnancy or maternity, race, religion or belief, sex, or sexual orientation.

Benefits of working at the University

Employee benefits

University employees enjoy 38 days' paid holiday, generous pension schemes, travel discounts, and a variety of professional development opportunities. Our range of other employee benefits and discounts also includes free entry to the Botanic Gardens and University colleges, and discounts at University museums. See <https://hr.admin.ox.ac.uk/staff-benefits>

University Club and sports facilities

Membership of the University Club is free for all University staff. The University Club offers social, sporting, and hospitality facilities. Staff can also use the University Sports Centre on Iffley Road at discounted rates, including a fitness centre, powerlifting room, and swimming pool. See www.club.ox.ac.uk and <https://www.sport.ox.ac.uk/>.

Information for staff new to Oxford

If you are relocating to Oxfordshire from overseas or elsewhere in the UK, the University's Welcome Service website includes practical information about settling in the area, including advice on relocation, accommodation, and local schools. See <https://welcome.ox.ac.uk/>

There is also a visa loan scheme to cover the costs of UK visa applications for staff and their dependents. See <https://staffimmigration.admin.ox.ac.uk/visa-loan-scheme>

Family-friendly benefits

With one of the most generous family leave schemes in the Higher Education sector, and a range of flexible working options, Oxford aims to be a family-friendly employer. We also subscribe to the Work+Family Space, a service that provides practical advice and support for employees who have caring responsibilities. The service offers a free telephone advice line, and the ability to book emergency back-up care for children, adult dependents and elderly relatives. See <https://hr.admin.ox.ac.uk/my-family-care>

The University has excellent childcare services, including five University nurseries as well as University-supported places at many other private nurseries.

For full details, including how to apply and the costs, see <https://childcare.admin.ox.ac.uk/>

Disabled staff

We are committed to supporting members of staff with disabilities or long-term health conditions. For further details, including information about how to make contact, in confidence, with the University's Staff Disability Advisor, see <https://edu.admin.ox.ac.uk/disability-support>

Staff networks

The University has a number of staff networks including the Oxford Research Staff Society, BME staff network, LGBT+ staff network and a disabled staff network. You can find more information at <https://edu.admin.ox.ac.uk/networks>

The University of Oxford Newcomers' Club

The University of Oxford Newcomers' Club is an organisation run by volunteers that aims to assist the partners of new staff settle into Oxford, and provides them with an opportunity to meet people and make connections in the local area. See www.newcomers.ox.ac.uk.